



In the Claims

1. – 24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) An interference screw for anchoring a transplant to a bone comprising:

a screw body made of a biodegradable material, said screw body including a head and a shaft and at least one axially extending groove substantially the length of said screw body;

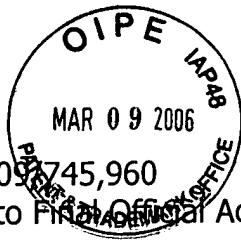
said screw head having a recess located therein;

a tool for inserting the screw into an opening in the bone, said tool including a drive element for insertion into said at least one axially extending groove;

said tool having a protrusion corresponding to said recess in the screw head for centering said tool with respect to said screw body during insertion;

said screw body contacting the transplant positioned between said screw body and a side of the opening in the bone to anchor said transplant to said bone.

26. (currently amended) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein said at least one axially extending groove is cut into an outer side of said screw body. substantially the length of said screw body.



27. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein said at least one drive element extends substantially the length of said at least one axially extending groove.

28. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein a depth of the at least one axially extending groove is such that the at least one drive element of said tool lies within the at least one axially extending groove and does not extend beyond an outer periphery of said screw body.

29. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein a depth of the at least one axially extending groove is such that the at least one drive element of said tool is housed within the at least one axially extending groove without extending radially beyond a threading of said shaft.

30. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein said recess is configured as a channel completely passing through said screw body.

31. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein the at least one axially extending groove is open axially at said screw head.

32. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein a bridge is provided for bridging the at least one axially extending groove in a circumferential direction.

33. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 32 wherein said bridge is provided in said screw body.

34. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein a bridge is provided for bridging the at least one axially extending groove in an circumferential direction of said screw body, said bridge is formed by an outer threading of said shaft.

35. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 25 wherein the transplant is selected from the group consisting of: a tendon, a ligament, and combinations thereof.

36. (currently amended) An interference screw for anchoring a transplant to a bone comprising:

a screw body made of a biodegradable material, said screw body including a head and a shaft and at least three axially extending grooves;

a tool for inserting the screw into an opening in the bone, said tool including at least three drive elements for insertion into said at least three axially extending grooves;

said screw body contacting the transplant positioned between said screw body and a side of the opening in the bone to anchor said transplant to said bone;[[.]]

said at least three axially extending grooves cut into an outer side of said screw body.

37. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein said at least three axially extending grooves are substantially the length of said screw body.

38. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein said at least three drive elements extend substantially the length of said at least three axially extending grooves.

39. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein a depth of the at least three axially extending grooves is such that the at least three drive elements of said tool lies within the at least three axially extending grooves and does not extend beyond an outer periphery of said screw body.

40. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein a depth of the at least three axially extending grooves is such that the at least three drive elements of said tool is housed within the at least three axially extending grooves without extending radially beyond a threading of said shaft.

41. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein the at least three axially extending grooves are open axially at said screw head.

42. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein a bridge is provided for bridging at least one of the at least three axially extending grooves in a circumferential direction.

43. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 42 wherein said bridge is provided in said screw body.

44. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein a bridge is provided for bridging the at least one of the at least three axially extending grooves in an circumferential direction of said screw body, said bridge is formed by an outer threading of said shaft.

45. (previously presented) The interference screw according to Claim 36 wherein the transplant is selected from the group consisting of: a tendon, a ligament, and combinations thereof.